

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A method for gathering information concerning attributes of a product through use of a network-based system including a server and at least one device connected to the server via a network, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving information concerning the product from a user via the device;

compiling the received information;

~~down-selecting the received information; and~~information, wherein said down-selecting includes associating subsets of the received information with levels of detail;
and

displaying the down-selected information relating to the product to the users.

2. (currently amended) A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said step of displaying the down-selected information is performed on a device physically remote from the server.

3. (currently amended) A method in accordance with Claim 2 wherein said step of receiving information is performed on a first device in a first room, and wherein said step of displaying the down-selected information is performed on a second device in a second room.

4. (original) A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said step of receiving information comprises the step of receiving information pertaining to features selected by the user.

5. (currently amended) A method in accordance with ~~Claim 2 wherein~~the Claim 1 wherein said receiving information comprises receiving at least one of a desired attribute, ease-of-use, performance characteristics, and time to market.

6. (currently amended) A method in accordance with Claim 1 ~~wherein~~the wherein said receiving information comprises receiving a customer-requested feature of the product.

7. (currently amended) A method in accordance with Claim 1 ~~wherein~~ the wherein said receiving information comprises receiving a specification for the product.

8. (currently amended) A method in accordance with Claim 1 ~~wherein the information comprises information regarding a user.~~ further comprising displaying information regarding the user.

9. (currently amended) A method in accordance with Claim 1 ~~wherein the information includes~~ further comprising receiving votes from users on the relative regarding importance of the down-selected information.

10. (original) A method in accordance with Claim 9 further comprising the steps of:

tabulating the votes; and

displaying the tabulated votes to the user.

11. (currently amended) A method in accordance with Claim 9 further comprising the step of utilizing ~~the information and the relative~~ importance of the down-selected information to generate a matrix.

12. (currently amended) A method in accordance with Claim 1 ~~further comprising the step of~~ wherein said receiving information comprises receiving the product product specification information from the user via a graphical user interface.

13. (currently amended) A method in accordance with Claim 1 further comprising the step of determining relationships between a set of features of the product and a set of customer-requested attributes-attributes of the product.

14. (original) A method in accordance with Claim 13 further comprising the step of sharing the determined relationships real-time with other users.

15. (withdrawn) A method for planning a product on a network connecting a plurality of users, the network comprising a server and a plurality of user display devices, said method comprising the steps of:

soliciting from the users information concerning a desirable attribute of a product;

compiling on the server the information received from the users;

displaying on the display devices the information received from the users;

down-selecting the received information;

polling the users to determine the relative importance each user places on the attribute, and

displaying on the display devices the information concerning the desirable attribute and the relative importance the group of user places on the attribute.

16. (withdrawn) A method in accordance with Claim 15 wherein at least one user is physically remote from another user.

17. (withdrawn) A method in accordance with Claim 15 wherein the information comprises information regarding a user.

18. (withdrawn) A method in accordance with Claim 15 wherein the information includes votes from users on the relative importance of the information.

19. (withdrawn) A method in accordance with Claim 15 wherein the votes are tabulated and displayed to the user.

20. (withdrawn) A method in accordance with Claim 15 further comprising the step of generating a matrix based on the information received and the relative importance of the received information.

21. (withdrawn) A method in accordance with Claim 15 further comprising the steps of:

determining relationships between features and customer-requested attributes;
and

sharing the determined relationships real-time with other users.

22. (currently amended) A system for gathering information concerning attributes of a product, said system comprising:

a device; and

a server connected to said device and configured to receive product specification information data from a user via said device, said server further configured to:

compile the received information;

display to the user information related to the product;

facilitate a down-selection process of the received ~~information;~~
and information to generate results, wherein to facilitate a down-selection process, said
server configured to facilitate an association of subsets of the received information
with levels of detail; and

display the results of the down-selection on said device.

23. (original) A system in accordance with Claim 22 wherein said server is further configured to receive information pertaining to features selected by the user.

24. (original) A system in accordance with Claim 22 wherein said server is further configured to receive information regarding at least one of a desired attribute, ease-of-use, performance characteristics, and time to market.

25. (currently amended) A ~~method~~system in accordance with Claim 22 ~~wherein the information comprises information regarding a user.~~wherein said server is configured to display information regarding the user.

26. (currently amended) A ~~method~~system in accordance with Claim 22 ~~wherein the information includes~~wherein said server is configured to receive votes from users on the relative importance of the information results.

27. (currently amended) A ~~method~~system in accordance with ~~Claim 22~~Claim 26 wherein ~~the votes are tabulated and displayed~~said server is configured to tabulate the votes and display the votes to the user.

28. (currently amended) A ~~method~~system in accordance with ~~Claim 22~~Claim 26 wherein ~~the information and the relative importance of the information are used to~~said server is configured to generate a matrix-matrix based on the importance of the results.

29. (currently amended) A system in accordance with Claim 22 wherein said server further configured to receive the product specification information from the user via a graphical user interface.

30. (original) A system in accordance with Claim 22 wherein said device configured to be a server for a network of customer devices.

31. (original) A system in accordance with Claim 22 wherein said server and said device are connected via a network.

32. (original) A system in accordance with Claim 31 wherein said network is one of a wide area network, a local area network and the Internet.

33. (new) A method in accordance with Claim 13 wherein said determining relationships comprises requesting, from the user, a level of a functional relationship between the set of features of the product and the set of customer-requested attributes of the product.